[Mr. K. K. Chellappan Pillai.]

(*a*) whether they are aware that a large acreage of paddy fields in Kuttanad is left fallow this sowing season ; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative what steps Government have taken against this wanton destruction of national economy?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Government are aware that an extent of about 13,000 acres of punja lands in Kuttanad is left fallow this year ?

(*b*) Government did not think it necessary to take any action on the matter in view of the fact that these lands, if cultivated, would not adequately repay the expenses of culvation.

Rationing of food materials.

515. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that there is a complaint amongst the people that the paddy, rice and wheat that are rationed out are of inferior quality and unfit for use; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative what the Government propose to do to remedy the defect ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Some complaints have been received.

(*b*) Government will take the requisite steps to remedy the defects whenever they are discovered or pointed out.

Ration shops.

516. *MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Division Peishkars and Tahsildars have power to grant wholesale and retail licences to run ration shops under the Food Grains Control Order in cases where they are satisfied that a particular locality requires a shop.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether complaints were received and they have been looked into ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes Sir.

PRESIDENT : Very large number of cases of complaints on examinations of paddy and other materials, have been received.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know the number ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : I could not say off hand.

MR. P. K. KUNJU : May I know the authority who is empowered to issue these licences ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The area Rationing Officer and the State Food Rationing Officer.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know.....

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : There is no instruction.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know whether after the recent census any new licences have been granted in the Quilon Division.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : It may not have been given, I must consult the Peishkar, Sir.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know by whom were these licences issued?

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